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BYS Minutes 05/09/2007

Minutes of the Board of Youth Services
 May 9, 2007

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM.

Present: Jeannette Mills, Cindy Sheridan, Mary Deyst, Elaine Shea, Carlene Newell, Larry Greco, Lynn Horgan, Joan Robbio, Dorothy Williams, Gene Lucarelli, Donna Dolan, and ex-officio members Dave McKenna, Elizabeth Oppedisano, and Leon Cantor. Guests: Christine Connolly and Joe Healy.

Christine Connolly, Director of Health and Human Services presented information on the progress of the Youth Health and Safety Coalition.

- ? Substance Abuse Counselor from Winchester
- ? Grant written to hire a Substance Abuse Counselor to run the coalition next year
- ? Grant application for \$100,000 Drug Prevention through SAMSA; will hear in August
- ? State grant for \$100,000 over 5 years
- ? Successful forum attended by several AHS students
- ? Data shows much parental denial about substance abuse. Hope to implement CMCA (Communities Mobilizing for Change) over next 5 years
- ? Need to improve data collection methods; increase frequency of Youth Risk Survey to every 2 years

Reports:

CAP: No word back from the Superintendent or School Committee. Members of the Board who attended the School Committee Sub-Committee meeting felt our presentation in support of bringing CAP back was strong. Hopeful that the response will be positive.

1st Step: Group may have some new clients. Group went to see Loretta LaRoche.

Alcohol Awareness : Peer leaders from AHS finished work at the Ottoson. There was great attendance/participation by AHS volunteers. "Game On" was very well received at the elementary schools. All had the program except Thompson.

AYCC : Completed first year of the School Based Counseling program. This was a great success with over 600 students getting counseling services. Leon anticipates this running more smoothly next year as everyone has worked hard this year on many logistical issues. There were 16 interns at schools and 7 at AYCC. For next year the number for the schools is at 12 for now, while budget questions are worked out with the School Department.

BYS Retreat: Scheduled for Sunday, June 3, 2007 at Robbins House from 8:00 am to noon. Alternate space discussed. Food discussed. Joan's co-worker, Joe Healy, from Lahey will facilitate the retreat.

Joe asked the Board a series of questions to consider and be prepared to address at the retreat.

1. What is the history of the Board, including programs, and progress?
2. What is the Mission Statement of the Board?
3. What are the Goals of the Board?
4. What Population is being served? How are they being served?
5. What are the Needs out there?
6. What are our Strengths and Weaknesses as a Board?
7. What Barriers exist to achieve the goals?
8. How expansive will our Role as a Board be? Clarify current affiliations (ie AYCC) and whether we will branch out.
9. In what ways do you think the Board should Contribute to the youth of Arlington?
10. Are there Critical Issues that you feel the Board needs to take up? (E.g. frequency of meetings)

11. How does the Board express it's position to the community?
12. What is the proposed duration of goals set? Will it be a 5 year plan?

Joe challenged the group to consider the above and be prepared to solidify these areas at the retreat. Gene suggested the Board clarify whether decision making was by consensus or a vote. Dave provided historical view of current management changes in Arlington. Mention was made of program cuts and of the Board's service to children in the broadest sense.

Donna informed the group she would have to leave the retreat by 10:00 in order to attend a wedding shower.

New Business:

The Board picnic is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, 6/13/07. Location to be determined (Joan and Donna offered to host pending date clarification) The picnic is potluck and spouses are invited.

Larry read the proposed letter to the Advocate on behalf of the Board. The group agreed on the content, signed, and Leon will e-mail a draft to those members who left early to attend Town Meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Sheridan